

*[Parti*

to that cry and gives it food and warmth. Moreover, if it did not cause her bodily pain to withhold the natural food from her babe, she might not be so ready to respond to the cry. And all through the subsequent stages of infancy, pain is a necessary element in the life of the child. It is a constant warning to the mother or nurse that something is wanted, that something is wrong and needs alteration or remedy. And as the child grows, it learns day by day through pain what is safe and what is not safe for it to have or to do. It thus learns to walk by the pain which accompanies its earliest experiments, and learns to speak by the distress and inconvenience of not being able properly to make its wants known. It learns that fire burns and water in ponds and rivers is to be cautiously approached ; it learns that eating too fast, or too much will produce indigestion, *i.e.*, pain. It learns by pain to be sympathetic and unselfish. These pains are therefore necessary at the very earliest stage of our life on earth, not only actual physical pains, but the pains of sympathy on the part of those to whom our preservation has been entrusted. Follow the merely animal life

of man through all its stages and you will perceive that pain in some form or other is essential to life, is always a warning of some disease or danger which leads to death. God is therefore to be thanked and not blamed for sending pain.

Pain is not only essential to life but essential to pleasure. Persons who have diseased heart or lungs, producing paroxysms of acute pain, in the intervals of immunity, experience pleasure in the mere act of breathing such as those who are healthy have no idea of.

Again, the avenues of pain and pleasure are one and the same. The nervous system, the five senses and the centres of feeling to which they lead, are used alike by pleasing and displeasing objects. If we had no faculty for feeling pain, we could have none for feeling any pleasure ; both must pass to the seat of consciousness along the same road, by the